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Comments: To whom it may concern -

Reversing the allowance for fixed hardware in mountaineering across the US in wilderness areas is a massive safety concern, backwards policy making, and would devastate pioneering and exploration in our country's amazing backcountry. We must be allowed to pursue new routes as well as replace aging hardware on iconic (and non-iconic!) routes in our greatest shared resource, our public lands.

Like many climbers, I too am an environmentalist. If this measure is for "environmental reasons" and "lowering the impact of humans in wild places" then we need to consider ALL human interference on public land beyond climbing hardware. There have been studies in recent years that hiking pressure our ungulate herds here in Colorado (<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/study-highlights-recreational-trail-impacts-to-wildlife-habitat/>). If you truly want to restore natural environments to their human-free conditions then ban humans all together from the wilderness. Think of how pristine our forests will be! Of course, I'm being facetious and the USFS by integrating humans into a natural environment allows education, appreciation, and respect for this natural resource. Allowing hikers and their facilities (bathrooms, trails, trash cans, guardrails etc) but denying climbers a few bolts 2000' up a wall is discriminatory.

At the end of the day, public land in this country is OUR public land and we will need better policy than blanket measures excluding one group from their comparatively low impact sport that generally brings out the best in the people practicing it with regards to LNT and wilderness/wildlife advocacy.

Thank you,

Amelia